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ABSTRACT

This project report critiques library print materials used to support grades 10 and 11 social studies curriculum in British Columbia. The data collected are intended to provide a ready reference for school librarians when considering the particular print materials listed. Four criteria were used: readability, format and style, organization, and vocabulary load. When critiquing the books for format and style, the project looked for graphic aids, illustrations, maps, glossaries, and appendices. Under the criterion of organization specific organizational aids were looked for, such as table of contents, index, chapter headings and chapter subheading. When critiquing the materials for vocabulary load, the project tried to determine if an author defined new vocabulary by use of illustrations or language. The books are listed alphabetically by author in chart form. Numerical scores for items within each of the four criteria are provided for each book. Scores are recorded for reading levels using the Fry and Smog formulas. An average reading score is also provided in the chart. (Author/RM)

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"Selectability of Print Materials in support of the Grades 10 and 11 Social Studies curriculum"

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When this project was first proposed, the idea was to examine the readability of print materials used to support the present grades 10 and 11 Social Studies curriculum as prescribed in British Columbia. The proposal rose from a concern about the difficulty students were encountering with materials they were required to use for assignments and projects.

For sometime it has been well known that the textbook, instead of assisting pupils in acquiring knowledge, generally has impeded and frustrated many students in their studies. Smith and Dechant have concluded that the textbooks in content areas may run one to two grade levels above their placement. If this is the case with textbooks which are supposedly designed to aid students in locating information, what of the books found in school libraries.

About the same time that we made our proposal, an article was published in the Journal of Reading (Nov., 1977) by John Harker, of the University of Victoria. In his article, Harker expressed a similar concern regarding the selection of learning materials. Rather than limiting criteria for selection to readability, he added several standards that would assist rather than frustrate student learning through reading.

As a result of Harker's article, we decided to apply the following four criteria to Social Studies print materials:

1. readability;
2. format and style;
3. organization;
4. vocabulary load;

I. READABILITY: Readability was chosen as the first criteria because it does provide a relatively quick guide to reading difficulty.

The two readability formulaes we chose use combinations of sentence length and vocabulary difficulty to determine reading difficulty.

If should be remembered that there are shortcomings to all readability formulas but, if used, as Harker suggests, with other criteria, they will assist teachers in matching students with materials.

II. FORMAT AND STYLE: Harker maintains that format and style are key considerations in determining reading difficulty. While he points to the problems students may face with the "ponderous, overly academic" style of "textbookish" material, we were only able to ascertain if our books contained certain special features that aid reading. We are referring to graphic aids, illustrations, maps, glossaries and appendices.

III. ORGANIZATION: While Harker refers to organization as the "continuity of ideas" or "sequentially developed" concepts, we limited ourselves to looking for specific organizational aids such as table of contents, index, chapter headings and chapter sub-headings. Our premise was that most publishing takes place without concern for organizational aids.

IV. VOCABULARY LOAD: Harker did not look specifically at vocabulary load, except through readability. We believe it an important criteria when selecting print materials and therefore tried to determine if an author defined new vocabulary by way of illustration or language.

LEGEND

The data collected was collapsed in the following manner to provide a ready reference for school librarians when considering the particular print materials listed.

READABILITY

The scores shown refer to grade level. (ie. 9 = grade nine, 17+ = university)

FORMAT / STYLE

Graphic Aids	:	1
Maps	:	2
Photographs	:	3
None	:	0

ORGANIZATION

Table of Contents	:	1
Index	:	2
Glossaries	:	3
Chapter Headings	:	4
Chapter Sub-headings	:	5
None	:	0

VOCABULARY LOAD

Definition	:	1
Illustration	:	2
Graphic Aids	:	3
None	:	0

UNIT: Canada - History

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabulary Load
Beck, J.M.	Shaping of Canadian Federalism	18	16.5	17.3	0	1,4,5	0
Berton, P.	Remember Yesterday	14	10.5	12.3	3	1,4,5	1
Berton, P. (ed)	Great Canadians	14	13.5	13.8	1,3	1,4,5	0
Bissel, C.	Great Canadian Writing	14	9.5	11.8	1,3	1,2,3,4	0
Bowman, B.	Dateline: Canada	12	7	9.5	1,2,3	2,4	0
Bumsted, J.M. (ed)	Documentary Problems in Canadian History: Pre-Confederation	15	13.5	14.3	0	1,4,5	0
Bumsted, J.M. (ed)	Documentary Problems in Canadian History: Post-Confederation	15	14.5	14.8	0	1,4,5	0
Careless, J.M.S	Canada: A Story of Challenge	15	15.5	15.3	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	1
Careless, J.M.S	The Pioneers	15	15.3	15.3	2,3	1,4	0
Cook, Ramsay	Canada and the United States	16	17+	16.5+	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	0
Creighton, Donald	Dominion of the North	17	13	15	1	1,2,4	1
Creighton, Donald	The Story of Canada	20	14.5	17.8	3	1,2,4	1
Creighton, Donald	Canada's First Century	18	16	17	1,3	1,2,4	0
Creighton, Donald	Canada: The Heroic Beginnings	15	12.5	13.3	1,2,3	1,2,4	3
Graham, Gerald	A Concise History of Canada	16	16	16	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	1
Kerr, D.G.G.	An Illustrated History of Canada	17	16.5	16.8	1,2,3	1,2,4	3
Kilbourn, William	The Making of the Nation	17	16.5	16.8	1,3	1,2,4,5	1
Kirbyson, Ronald	In Search of Canada - v1	13	12	12.5	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	1,2,3
Kirbyson, Ronald	In Search of Canada -V2	13	10.5	11.7	1,2,3	1,2,4,5,	1,2,3
LaPierre, Laurier	The Apprenticeship	14	16	15	0	1,4	0
LaPierre, Laurier	Genesis of a Nation	14	14	14	0	1,4	0
Lefolii, Ken	The Canadian Look	12	11.5	11.8	1,3	1,4,5	1,2,3
Lower, J. Arthur	Nationalism to Internationalism	14	10.5	12.3	1	1,4,5	1,2
Lower, Arthur	Colony to Nation	14	13	13.5	1,2	1,2,4,5	0
Macdonald, Robert	The Romance of Canadian History	14,	13	13.5	1,2,3	1,4,5	1,2,3
Morton, W.L.	The Canadian Identity	15	16	15.5	1	1,2,4,5	0
Osbourne, Ken	The Prairies	15	12.5	13.3	1	1,4,5	0
Peck, Anne	The Pageant of Canadian History	12	10.5	11.3	3	1,2,4	0
Rich, E.E.	The Fur Trade and the Northwest to 1857	14	12	13	1,2	1,2,4	0
Russell, Loris	Everyday Life in Colonial Canada	13	11.5	12.3	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	1,2,3
Smiley, Donald	The Canadian Political Nationality	18	17	17.5	0	1,2,4,5	0

UNIT: Canada - History - to 1763 (New France)

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organisation	Vocabulary Load
Borins, Edward	Canada in the days of New France	12	11	11.5	1,2,3	1,4,5	1,2,3
Cook, Ramsay	Canada and the French-Canadian Question	17	17+	17	0	1,2,4	0
Cook, Sharon Anne	Life in New France	10	8.5	9.3	1,2,3	1,4	1,2,3
Costain, Thomas	The White and the Gold	13	10.5	11.7	2	1,4	1
Creighton, Donald	The Empire of the St. Lawrence	16	13.5	14.3	2	1,2,4	0
Eccles, W.J.	The Ordeal of New France	13	11.5	12.3	0	1,4	1
Honig, Donald	Frontiers of Fortune	10	9	9.5	1,2,3	1,2,4	0
Innis, Harold	The Fur Trade in Canada	14	13.5	13.8	1,3	1,2,4,5	0
Marsh, James	The Fur Trade	11	8	9.5	1,2,3	1,4,5	1,2,3
Mealing, S.R.	The Jesuit Relations	12	9.5	10.3	0	1,4,5	0
Morse, Eric	Fur Trade Canoe Routes of Canada	13	11.5	12.3	1,2,3	1,4,5	1,2
Neering, Rosemary	Fur Trade	10	4.5	7.3	1,2,3	1,3,4,5	1,2,3
Neering, Rosemary	Life in Acadia	8	6.5	7.3	1,2,3	1,3,4	1,2,3
Neering, Rosemary	Life in New France	9	7	8	1,2	1,3,4	1,2,3
Nish, Cameron	The French Canadians, 1759-1766	15	12.5	13.7	0	1,4,5	0
Stanley, George	New France - The Last Phase	17	16	16.5	1,2,3	1,2,4	1
Trudel, Marcel	The Beginnings of New France	14	12	13	1,2,3	1,2,4	0
Wade, Mason	The French Canadians, 1760-1967	17	13	15	0	1,2,4,5	0
Wade, Mason	The French Canadians, v2	18	17+	17+	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	0
Zoltvany, Yves	Philippe de Rigaud de Vaudreuil	14	10.5	12.3	2	1,2,4	1

UNIT: Canada - History - 1763-1791

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabulary Load
Chappell, Edward	Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay in His Majesty's Ship Rosamond	13	12	12.5	1,2	3	0
Evans, G.N.D.	Problems in Canadian History: The Loyalists	18	14.5	16.3	1	4,5	0
Murray, John	The Earl of Selkirk's Settlement Upon the Red River	18	12.5	15.3	0	0	0
Neering, Rosemary	Life Among the Loyalists	8	6.5	7.3	1,2,3	1,3,4,5	1,2,3

UNIT: Canada - History - 1791-1841

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organisation	Vocabulary Load
Craig, Gerald	Upper Canada - 1784-1841	15	13	14	1,2	1,2,4	0
Dunham, Aileen	Political Unrest in Upper Canada	16	13	14.5	0	1,2,4	0
Dunlop, William	Tiger Dunlop's Upper Canada	15	9.2	12.3	0	1,4,5	1
Fink, Dean	Life in Upper Canada, 1781-1841	18	10.5	14.3	1	1,4,5	0
MacNutt, W.S.	The Atlantic Provinces	15	15.5	15.3	2	1,2,4	0
Simpson, George	Peace River - A Canoe Voyage from Hudson's Bay to the Pacifac	11	11	11	1	5	0

UNIT: Canada - History - 1841-1867

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabulary Load
Careless, J.M.S	The Union of the Canadas	16	16.5	16.3	2	1,2,4	0
Dent, J.C.	The Last Forty Years: The Union to Confederation	17	16	16.5	0	1,2,4	0
Howison, John	Sketches of Upper Canada	16	14.5	15.3	0	1,4	0
Jameson, Anna	Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada	12	11	11.5	2	1	0
Masters, Donald	The Reciprocity Treaty of 1854	17	17+	17	1	1,2,4,5	0
Nish, Elizabeth	Racism or Responsible Government: The French-Canadian Dilemma of the 1840s	18	17+	17.5+	0	1,4,5	0
Tucker, Gilbert	The Canadian Commercial Revolution 1845-1851	17	14.5	15.3	0	1,2,4	0

UNIT: Canada - History - Confederation, 1867

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabulary Load
Cook, Ramsay	Confederation	18	15.5	16.7	0	1,4	0
Copp, J.T.	Confederation: 1867	13	9.5	11.3	1	4	0
Underhill, Frank	The Image of Confederation	17	14	15.5	0	1,4	0
Waite, P.B.	The Confederation Debates	13	10	11.5	0	1,2,4	0
Waite, P.B.	The Life and Times of Confederation	14	15.5	14.3	1	1,4	0
Waite, P.B.	Confederation, 1854-1867	15	16.5	15.7	0	1,4,5	0

UNIT: Canada - History - 1867-1914

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabulary Load
Adley-Walters, M.	Canada: Land of Immigrants	15	14	14.5	1,2,3	1,4,5	1,2,3
Berger, Carl	Imperialism and Nationalism	14	12.5	13.3	0	1,4,5	0
Berger, Carl	The Sense of Power	17	14.5	15.8	0	1,2,4	0
Berton, Pierre	The National Dream and the Last Spike	13	12	12.5	2,3	1,2,4	0
Broadfoot, Barry	The Pioneer Years: 1895-1914	8	5.5	6.7	3	1,4,5	1,2
Cattermole, William	Emigration	15	11.5	13.3	1	1,4	0
Cross, Michael	The Frontier Thesis and the Canadas	16	16	16	0	1,4,5	0
Gilbert, John	Pioneers	14	13	13.5	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	1,2,3
Gilbert, John	Builders of the West	10	7.8	8.9	1,2,3	1,4,5	1
Hardy, W.G.	From Sea Unto Sea	13	12	12.5	2	1,2,4,5	0
Levitt, Joseph	Henri Bourassa on Imperialism and Bi-Culturalism, 1900-1918	14	14	14	0	1,4,5	0
MacEwan, Grant	Between the Red and the Rockies	12	10	11	1,2	1,2,4	0
McDougall, J. Lorne	Canadian Pacifac	13	13.5	13.3	1	1,2,4	0
Marryatt, Capt.	The Settlers in Canada	14	11.5	12.7	1	0	0
Mayles, Stephen	Building of the CPR	12	10.5	11.3	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	1,2,3
Neering, Rosemary	Gold Rush	10	7.5	8.7	1,2,3	1,3,4,5	1,2,3
Neering, Rosemary	North-west Mounted Police	10	7.5	8.7	1,2,3	1,3,4,5,	1,2,3
Neering, Rosemary	Building of the Railway	9	7.5	8.3	1,2,3	1,3,4,5	1,2,3,
Page, Robert	Imperialism and Canada, 1895-1903	16	17+	16.5+	1,3	1,4,5	0
Rasmussen, Linda	A Harvest Yet to Reap	13	11	12	1,3	1,2,4,5	0
Robertson, Heather	Salt of the Earth	10	9	9.5	3	1,4	0
Silber, A. I.	The North-West Rebellion	14	10	12	2	4,5	0
Stanley, George F. G.	The Birth of Western Canada	15	14.3	14.6	1,3	1,2,4	0
Stevens, Paul	The 1911 General Election	15	14	14.5	1	1,4,5	0
Waite, P.B.	Arduous Destiny	13	10.5	11.8	2,3	1,4	0
Zaslow, Morris	The OPening of the Canadian North	19	15	17	2,3	1,2,4	0

UNIT: Canada - History - 1918-1939

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	FRY	AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabula Load
Balawyder, A.	The Winnipeg General Strike	14	12.5	13.3	0	4,5	0
Boudreau, Joseph	Alberta, Aberhart and Social Credit	15	13	14	1,3	1,4,5	0
Broadfoot, Barry	Ten Lost Years	6	5,5	5.8	3	1,4,5	0
Gray, James H.	Men Against the Desert	13	10.5	11.8	3	1,2,4	0
Gray, James H.	The Roar of the Twenties	13	11	12	3	1,2,4	2,3
Gray, James H.	The Winter Years	11	8	9.5	1,3	1,2,4	1
Kealy, L.	Women at Work: 1850-1930	14	15.5	14.8	1,3	1,4	0
Liversedge, Ronald	Recollections of the On-to-Ottawa Trek	14	13.5	13.8	0	1,4,5	0
Masters, D.C.	The Coming of Age	11	8.5	9.8	0	1,4	C
Munro, John	The Alaska Boundary Dispute	17	13	15	1	1,4,5	0
Patton, Janice	How the Depression Hit the West	12	14	13	3	0	1,2
Penner, Norman	Winnipeg 1919	16	13	14.5	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	0
Rea, J. E.	The Winnipeg General Strike	13	11.5	12.3	1,3	1,4,5	2
Safarian, A.E.	The Canadian Economy in the Great Depression	16	15.5	15.8	1	1,2,4,5	0
Singer, Barnett	The Great Depression	11	9.5	10.3	1,3	1,2,4,5	1,2,3
Wilbur, J.R.H.	The Bennett New Deal	15	15.5	15.3	1	1,4,5	0

UNIT: Canada - History - 1939-1945

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organisation	Vocabulary Load
Granatstein, J.L.	Canada's War	13	11.5	12.3	1,3	1,2,4	0
Patton, Janice	The Exodus of the Japanese	14	14.5	14.3	3	4	1,2,3
Robertson, Terence	The Shame and the Glory - Dieppe	13	10.5	11.8	2	1,2,4	0

UNIT: Canada - History - 1945-

Author	Title	Readability SMOG	Readability FRY	Readability AVG.	Format/Style	Organization	Vocabulary Load
Conrad, Margaret	20th Century Canada	15	11.5	13.3	1,2,3	1,2,4,5	0
Creighton, Donald	The Forked Road	15	13.5	14.3	3	1,2,4	0
Granatstein, J.L.	Canadian Foreign Policy since 1945	15	14.5	14.8	0	1,4,5	0
Nish, Cameron	Quebec in the Duplessis Era	15	10.5	12.8	0	1,4,5	0